P22032.A04

TATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Mitsuru TAKAI et al. Applicants

Group Art Unit: 2621

Appln. No. : 10/084,177

Examiner: Hadi AKHAVANNIK

Filed

: February 28, 2002

Confirmation No.: 4788

For

: NEXT PROCESS-DETERMINING METHOD, INSPECTING METHOD

AND INSPECTING APPARATUS

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Amendment Randolph Building 401 Dulany Street Alexandria VA 22314

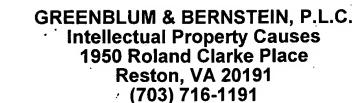
Sir:

In response to the Official Action of September 8, 2005, in which a three-month shortened statutory period for response was set to expire on December 8, 2005, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the herein contained amendments and remarks.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this Response.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this Response.

P22032.P06



Mitsuru TAKAI et al. In re application

Attorney Docket No. P22032

Mail Stop Amendment

Serial No.

10/084,177

Group Art Unit : 2621

Filed

February 28, 2002

Examiner : Hadi AKHAVANNIK

For

NEXT PROCESS-DETERMINING METHOD, INSPECTING

METHOD AND INSPECTING APPARATUS

Mail Stop Amendment

Commissioner for Patents U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Amendment Randolph Building 401 Dulany Street Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an Response under 37 C.F.R. 1.111 in the above-captioned application.

Small Entity Status of this application under 37 C.F.R. 1.9 and 1.27 has been established by a previously filed statement.

A verified statement to establish small entity status under 37 C.F.R. 1.9 and 1.27 is enclosed.

An Information Disclosure Statement, PTO Form 1449, and references cited.

A Request for Extension of Time.

X No additional fee is required.

The fee has been calculated as shown below:

Claims After Amendment	No. Claims Previously Paid For	Present Extra	Small Entity		Other Than A Small Entity	
		- - 111	Rate	Fee	Rate	Fee
Total Claims: 10	*20	0	X25=	. \$	x 50=	\$0.00
Indep. Claims: 3	**3	0	X100=	\$	X200=	\$0.00
Multiple Dependent Claims Presented			+180=	\$	+360=	\$0.00
Extension Fees for Month(s)				\$		\$0.00
			Total:	\$	Total:	\$0.00

^{*} If less than 20, write 20

Please charge my Deposit Account No. 19-0089 in the amount of \$

N/A A Check in the amount of \$___ to cover the filing/extension fee(s) is included.

X The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

X Any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16.

X Any patent application processing fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.17, including any required extension of time fees in any concurrent or future reply requiring a petition for extension of time for its timely submission (37 CFR 1.136)(a)(3).

Bruce H. Bernstein

Reg. No. 29,027

Steven Wegman Reg. No. 31,438

{P22032 00001072.DOC}

^{**} If less than 3, write 3